

# Joseph "Joe" Pickett

## Biography

**Joe C. Pickett** is a member of the Texas House of Representatives, where he is presently serving his ninth term. He is a full-time State Representative and is known for his expertise in appropriations and on transportation issues. He holds a Texas real estate brokers license, collects antique cars and writes childrens books which are published and marketed throughout the United States. His books are a big part of his efforts to support children's literacy programs. Some of his works have been commissioned by the United Way and are written in English and Spanish. Joe is married and is the proud father of three girls and a boy.

Joe started his political career as a City Council member for the City of El Paso, Texas. During his time on City Council, he was appointed to serve on the Central Appraisal District Board for El Paso County and the Pension Board for the City of El Paso.

Rep. Pickett is currently serving as **Chairman of the House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs**. In addition, he is a former Chairman and a current member of the House Committee on Transportation and a member of the House Committee on Redistricting. He is also a member of the House Research Organization (HRO). This committee reports on all legislation which is scheduled for floor debate; the committee also performs analysis on major interim topics and constitutional amendments. Members of the HRO are elected by the body of the House of Representatives. Rep. Pickett is a member of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus and of the Legislative Study Group.

Currently, Joe serves as the Chairman of the regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations Transportation Policy Board. This body is comprised of the City of El Paso and all nearby municipalities in both Texas and New Mexico; the County of El Paso; the El Paso areas State Legislators; and the Departments of Transportation in both states.

- **Representative Pickett has as also served as:**

- Chairman of House Transportation
- Vice Chairman of Juvenile Justice and Family Issues
- Chairman of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on General Government
- Chairman of Budget Oversight for the Land and Resource Management Committee
- Committee on Border Affairs
- Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee
- Criminal Jurisprudence Committee

- **Representative Pickett has served on these Select Committees and in these Special Assignment capacities:**

- The Governor's Anti-Crime Commission, appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry
- Texas Department of Transportation Working Group for Rules and Regulations prior to the Sunset Process
- Select Committee on Foster Care and Adoption
- Select Committee on Individuals Eligible for Immediate Care Facilities

- **Some of his awards and recognitions include:**

- Transportation Advocates of Texas Legislator of the Year
- Texas Transit Association Legislator of the Year
- Texas Public Employees' Association Legislator of the Year
- Texas DPS Officers' Association Legislator of the Year
- Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards Representative of the Year
- West Texas Poison Control Center Network's Legislator of the Year

- Camino Real Excellence in Transportation Award
- Paso Del Norte Recognition in Distinction Transportation Award

Representative Pickett served on the national board of directors of the American Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO). AMPO is a national nonprofit membership organization serving the needs of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) nationwide. It is a federal requirement that MPOs be established as a precondition for federal spending on highway or transit projects in urbanized areas. Federal highway and transit statutes require the existence of MPOs which serve their areas in planning, programming and coordinating federal highway and transit investments.

In addition he currently serves on the Texas Transportation Council (TTC) in Austin. The TTCs mission is to function as a non-partisan and independent forum to research, organize, and promote a new direction for transportation that is based upon transparency, accountability and efficiency in order to improve mobility and restore public faith in the management of our states transportation infrastructure.

Besides being a real estate broker, Representative Pickett is a certified real estate instructor and still teaches ethics and law in continuing education programs.

His love of cars has earned him the reputation of being somewhat of a car collector. He has a variety of antique and unusual vehicles including one-of-a-kinds such as John Wayne's hunting vehicle (that Wayne used on his ranch in Arizona), a double-decker English bus that belonged to a famous Southwestern artist named Ted DeGrazia, working fire trucks that are used for children's charities and parades, and several military vehicles. Joe's talents nicely segue into his ability as a "creative welder" which has led him to create works such as a replicated military artillery piece from stock metal and iron.

Representative Pickett's civic involvement includes membership on the boards of the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso, the Texas YMCAs Policy Council and the Advisory Council for Health Sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). He has been a member of the Lions Club for the past 21 years, a former member of the El Paso Crime Stoppers Board, and served five years as a volunteer board member and chairman of a local credit union. The main thrust of his civic involvement has been the formation of the 501(c)3 non-profit Lee Trevino Improvement Association, which fights graffiti and enhances the aesthetics of the community through tree planting, cleaning and building-renovation projects. The association has received national honors from "Keep America Beautiful" and has been awarded a grant from the Office of the Governor for work in the community.

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